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Warrior's Path with its branches formed the avenue over which the pioneers passed from Virginia and Carolina to the trans-Appalachian region. West of the Mississippi River, the Oregon and Santa Fé trails are notable examples.(2) In Minneapolis, Hennepin Avenue follows the ancient Indian trail from Lake Harriet to the Mississippi River just above the Falls of St. Anthony. Probably many of the present-day roads which do not follow section lines are on trails that were first used by the Indians.

The reports of the fur traders, on their return from the Indian villages and fairs to the white outposts, concerning the lands that they had seen were the stimulus that drove the land-hungry and the restless ever onward into the interior. Indian sign languages, developed because of intertribal trade, proved useful to the whites, and Indian wampum was occasionally adopted as a medium of exchange. (3)

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When Indian tribes or nations occupied strategic positions along the avenues of expansion, their relative strength determined the length of time that they were able to retard the white man's advance. In such instances the tribes became an important factor in the struggle of the European nations for domination in the New World; and for this reason attempts were made to treat the Indians as quasi subjects. Because of trade relations and alliances, the Algonquians adhered largely to the French and the Iroquois to the English, and this alignment was a decisive factor in the English triumph in the struggle for subremacy in North America. The strength of the Iroquois greatly retarded the white advance along the natural route of expansion up the Hudson-Mohawk Valley. In contrast, the absence of a strong tribe at or ne r the western end of the Cumberland Gap accelerated the westward movement in this region. The Indian tribes of the lower South were an important element in the diplomatic efforts of the European nations, during and following the American Revolution, to limit the United States to the region east of the Appalachians. In the various wars in which the United States has been involved the Indians have been a factor. (4)

In the English colonies along the Atlantic coast the danger from hostile tribes was probably a decided influence toward nationalism; certainly the danger promoted community cohesiveness and was a damper on the tendency toward scattered settlements. From the close of the seventeenth century various intercolonial conferences were called to treat with Indians and promote common measures of defense. The most celebrated of these conferences was the Albany Congress of 1754, called to negotiate with the Iroquois and to consider plans of union. The unifying tendencies of the Revolutionary period were in part due to the Indian menace in the hinterland. Particularism was strongest in colonies without an Indian frontier. Each succeeding frontier in the white advance from the Atlantic to the Pacific had its Indian problem, and each was won by bloodshed.

The Indian in the United States and Canada was ultimately diverted to reservations, but the problem of the social and economic relationship of the red and white races still remains. (5) The Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934, an expression of the vision of John Collier and others who comprehend this racial clash, will, it is hoped, prove a Magna Charta for the red man and the solution of the problem of the interrelation of the conqueror and the conquered. (6)

In the countries south of the Rio Grande the situation is decidedly different. (7) The recent election of General Larzaro Cardenas, a man of pure-Indian lineage, to the presidency of Mexico again reminds us of the overwhelming dominance of Indian and mestizo blood in our neighbouring republic. One authority has recently stated that he doubts whether the whites of Mexico exceed half a million in the population of fifteen million. Indian blood predominates in at least ten American republics and it has definitely affected the national type in sections of several others. The present Indian population of the two Americas is in excess of a conservative minimum of twenty-six million. (8)

The English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish languages as used and developed in the Western Hemisphere utilize many words from the various Indian tongues.(9) Naturally, this contribution is greatest in Mexico and Central and South America, where the population has remained predominantly Indian in blood. In these regions, the European conquerors and their descendants absorbed into their vocabularies numerous words which the Indians used as symbols for native animals, birds, plants, and insects, and the various purposes for which they are used. Canadian-French has taken over at least fifty words.

The English language has incorporated hundreds of Indian words. Although our tongues have frequently garbled and marred them, maps of North and South America are dotted with place names used by the Indian for rivers, lakes, bays, gulfs, capes, islands, valleys, and mountains, and for designating localities where the white man has developed towns, cities, townships, counties, states, provinces, and republics.(10) Walt Whitman sang of this legacy in his Starting from Paumanok:

The red aborigines,
Leaving natural breaths, sounds of rain and winds,
calls as of birds and animals in the woods, syllabled
to us for names,
Okonee, Koosa, Ottawa, Monongahela, Sauk, Natchez,
Chattahoochee, Kaqueta, Oronoco,
Wabash, Miami, Saginaw, Chippewa, Oshkosh, Walla-Walla,
Leaving such to the States, they melt, they depart,
charging the water and the land with names.

Indian words are also used, sometimes in abbreviated and modified forms, in naming our clubs, lodges, farms, parks, lakeside cottages, and seashore hotels, and also for ships of war and peace. In addition to place names, American English has absorbed over five hundred Indian words. These represent a wide range of thought and experience.(11)

This linguistic contribution also includes phrases and expressions which are translations and imitations of aboriginal turns and tricks of thought. Thus we have: brave, Father of Waters, fire water, Great White Father, Great Spirit, happy hunting ground, medicine man, paleface, souw man, to bury the hatchet, to smoke the pipe of peace, war path, and war paint.

The white man named many things "Indian" because they were his or were associated with him. We have, for example, Indian bread, Indian club, Indian corn, Indian file, Indian gift, Indian hemo, Indian ladder, Indian meal, Indian pudding, and Indian summer. The list of things "Indian" numbers more than a hundred in English, exclusive of the topographic use of the word. The French "sauvage" and the Spanish "India" also have their categories.

The literature and art of the world also owe the Indian much in the way of topic and inspiration. Poems, songs, dramas, novels, chronicles, histories, and folklore have the Indian as their subject. (12) Voltaire considered the speech of the wise old cacique, Colocola, in Alonzo de Ercilla's La Araucana, begun in 1558, superior to that of Nestor in the first book of the Iliad. Not a few critics agree that Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha (1855) is American literature's most notable poem. (13) Eighteenth-century liberals believed that the Indian, because of the simplicity of his life, had retained a purity and strength of character which the white man had lost during the evolution of his complex culture. For Rousseau and Chateaubriand the Indian was the embodiment of their dream of nature's nobleman living the perfect life in the American wilderness. The Indian has also appealed to the artist, both individually and by reason of his historic experience. The number of painters, engravers, and sculptors who have taken their subjects from the realm of aboriginal thought and action is legion. Modern architecture and design has also received contributions from the Indian. It has been asserted that the setback feature of the skyscraper was influenced by the Maya temples. (14) Many of the gums and resins, ornamental timbers, and dyewoods now used in furniture making and other arts are a debt to the previous knowledge or experimentation of the Indian.

We may well make the literature of the aborigines part of our own. As Mary Austin has said:

These early Amerinds had been subjected to the American environment for from five to ten thousand years. This had given them time to develop certain characteristic Americanisms. They had become intensely democratic, deeply religious, idealistic, communistic in their control of public utilities, and with a strong bias toward representative government. The problem of the political ring, and the excessive accumulation of private property had already made its appearance within the territory that is now the United States. And along with these things had developed all the varieties of literary expression natural to that temperament and that state of society— oratory, epigram, lyrics, ritual—drama, folk—tale, and epic, (15)

The permanent worth of the songs and epics, the folk tales and dramas of the Indians, aside from their intrinsic literary quality, is their revelation of the power of the American landscape to influence form, and the expressiveness of democratic living in native measures.

The earlier...we...think of them as the inevitable outgrowth of the American environment, the more readily shall we come into full use of it: such use as has in other lands produced out of just such materials the plays of Shakespeare, the epics of Homer, the operas of Wagner, the fables of Aesop, the hymns of David, the tales of Andersen, and the Arabian Nights.(16)

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The chief contribution of the Indian is his agricultural plants, methods, and processes.(17) In his climb toward civilization, the Indian had discovered the advantages of bringing wild plants under control and of breeding them by seed selection, and he had realized the value of cultivating and fertilizing the soil. Unfortunately, his progress was impeded by the fact that America lacked animals that could be domesticated for draft purposes.

Paramount among the food plants domesticated and developed by the Indian and given, directly or indirectly, to the white man is corn or maize. The white potato, originally grown by the Indian in the Andes, was destined to become one of the world's greatest food staples, along with wheat, rice, and corn. Tobacco is one of the most important of our present-day cash crops. Other plants originally used by the Indian are agave, alligator pear or avocado, arrowroot, barnyard grass, the many varieties of kidney and lima beans, cacao, apsicum or Chili pepper, cashew nut, cherimoya, coca, cotton (Gossyman barbadense Linn.), gourds of all kinds, guava, Jerusalem artichoke, madia, manioc or cassava, mate or Paraguay tea, oca, papaw, peanut, pineapple, prickly pear or Indian fig, pumpkin, quinoa, squash, star apple, sweet potato, and tomato.(18)

It has been estimated that four-sevenths of the total agricultural production of the United States, measured in farm values, consists of economic plants domesticated by the Indian and taken over by the white man.(19) The extent of the debt to the Indian for his work of domestication is emphasized when we recall that the white man has not reduced to cultivation a single important staple during the four hundred years that he has dominated the New World.

The adaptation of European methods to American conditions proved a problem of extreme difficulty. For several years their foundation the first colonies faced starvation, and they survived only because they received supplies from the mother country and made purchases and thefts of food from the Indians. The permanence of the colonies was assured only when they were established agriculturally, and this came when they had adopted the crops and tillage methods of the natives. Governor Bradford, referring to Squanto, tells how he came to the relief of the Pilgrim Fathers, "showing them both ye maner how to set it [corn], and after how to dress & tend it. Also he tould them excepte they gott fish & set with it (in these old grounds) it would come to nothing."(20) Out of the union of the American Indian and European farming came the solution of the food-quest problem of the colonists and the beginnings of American agriculture. The first lands occupied by the colonists were the clearings used by the Indian for his crude farms. As a source of man power, the native was of little consequence in North America; in New Spain he made an essential contribution through the medium of the encomienda system. (21)

The entire "maize-culture complex"- to use a term of the anthropologist and the sociologist- was taken over by the white man. (22) The farm of the pioneer, whether in the seventeenth century or the twentieth, is a counterpart of the Indian corn field. The ground is exposed to the sunlight by girdling the trees or scotching their roots, and the trunks and stumps are removed by burning. The kernels of corn are planted in hills three or four feet apart; beans are planted with the corn, and pumpkins and squash between the hills. The soil is cultivated to check the weeds and to keep it loose and friable. Scarecrows— and sometimes children on platforms are used to keep away the birds. In harvesting the corn, the husking peg is still useful. The corn is stored in slatted cribs upon posts to facilitate air circulation. When used for human food, it is prepared in ways devised by the Indians. It must be granted that the white man has added machinery and animal power to the Indian method of planting corn and other plants of New World origin, but the native system of placing the plants in hills and heaping earth about the stalks during cultivation is still a fundamental process in farming, just as broadcast seeding is essential in growing the grains of Old World origin.

Several varieties of cotton were used by the Indian in pre-Columbian times. It is probably the only important cultivated plant which was domesticated independently in both hemispheres. Today the mainstay of the world's cotton industry is a native American species, Gossypium hirsutum, which was cultivated by the Indians of Mexico. Besides llama wool and alpaca, the Indian used several kinds of the maguey (Agave americana) and the Agave mexicana, the sisal hemo, the piassava, the leaves of the pineapple, and the ixtle as sources of fiber. In northeastern North America the whites followed the Indian in making ropes and strings from Indian hemp (Apocynum cannabinum) and the bark of the leatherwood (Dirca palustris). The Indian also realized the properties of rubber. When the Spaniards entered Mexico they watched Indian ball games played in public courts, and obtained balls as souvenirs to send home. A recent writer has referred to this incident as the beginning of the world's rubber trade.(23)

Many vegetable products were gathered by the Indians but were not cultivated because of their natural abundance. Berries and roots were important sources of food and medicine. In contrast with our field crops, the American fruit industry is built mainly on fruits not native to this country. Of the different common fruits, the following may be cited as native: blackberry, blueberry, crab apple, cranberry, dewberry, elderberry, June berry, gooseberry (native in distinction from the European type), grape (excepting the European or vinifera type), huckleberry, mulberry (certain relatively unimportant types), persimmon (native in distinction from the Oriental type), olum (native in distinction from the Japanese and European types), raspberry (both red and black), and strawberry. The preponderance of berries in this native list is striking, and the absence of fruit trees is equally so. (24) Two diagrams in the Yearbook of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 1925 indicate effectively the relative importance of vegetables and fruits native to the United States and those introduced from other lands. (25) Although the great bulk of the fruit grown represents varieties originated here, they have come largely from foreign species.

As already indicated the Indian had few domesticated animals. The dog alone was practically universal. In the Andes the Incas had llamas and alpacas. The llamas were raised in herds, numbering thousands, and were not only used in transportation, but sheared for their wool and slaughtered for their flesh. Other domestications include the guinea pig by the Incas and the turkey by the tribes of Mexico and the southwestern United States, who kept them for their eggs and feathers as well as for their flesh.

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In aboriginal America irrigation was practiced from Arizona to Chile. In the Salt River Valley there were about a hundred and fifty miles of main irrigation ditches, and some of them have been incorporated into the modern systems. In Peru irrigation was carried out on a scale scarcely equalled by modern peoples. The remains of the aqueduct systems of the Inca empires show genius and organization which we of today may well respect. (26)

Many of our present foods and the methods of cooking them are a heritage from the Indian. Elaborate all-American menus may be prepared; the following may be taken as a sample.(27)

Cocktail of Virginia oyster, with sauce of tomato and red pepper Chowder of little-neck clams, with tomatoes and green corn, with opposum fat substituted for pork

or

Terrapin stew, made with turtle eggs
Barbecued shad a la Indienne, with white potatoes; and tamales a la Mexicaine
Bell peppers or tomatoes, stuffed with wild rice

Turkey, stuffed with native chestnuts or oysters; cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, string beans, succotash of lima beans and green corn, stewed tomatoes, Jerusalem artichoke, corn-pone or hoe-cake, guava jelly

Salted peanuts

Sherbert, passion-flower fruit à la Martinique

or

Sour-sop à la Havanne

or

Cherimoya à la Peruvienne

For the game course:

Quail, rice birds or canvasback ducks, blackberry or grape jelly

Salad of avocado (or alligator pear), with dressing of sunflower or hickory nut oil and maple vinegar, and cayenne pepper and salt

Pineapple tapioca, pumpkin pudding, stewed blueberries Strawberries, grapes, wild plums

Pecans. Brazil nuts. Water chinquapins (or lotus fruit). Hickory nuts. Pine nuts. Hazel nuts. Popcorn
Chocolate - Yerba maté - Cassine tea
Cigars and cigarettes

In North America, hominy, pone, sagamity, samp, succotash, and suppawn are typical native dishes. Pemmican and jerked beef were first prepared by the Indian, and in the Great Lakes region wild rice was and still is used in such quantity as to make it a stable. (28) The entire technique of preparing maple sugar has been acquired from the Indian, and his ways of cooking clams by baking them and of preparing fish by planking it have been adopted. The folk foods of Spanish America are largely aboriginal in origin; so also are the drinks—pulque, mescal, chicha, and cachiri. Various methods of making fruits, herbs, roots, and game more palatable were learned from the natives. Chewing gum is still another contribution.

Following the discovery of America, many of the medicines used by the Indians became popular in Europe. (29) While some of these are now regarded as having little therapeutic value, others are still of prime importance. At first, Europeans regarded guaiacum wood (lignum vitae) and sarsaparilla as the most important American medicines. Another socalled remedy which became popular in Europe was Mexican jade as a cure for kidney diseases. Tobacco and copal were first introduced into Europe as medicines. In the American colonies the Indian doctor who knew the uses of herbs, barks, leaves, roots, and juices treated the white pioneers or taught them their secret remedies. The natives of Bolivia and Peru chewed the leaves of the coca plant long before the Spanish conquest, and they realized its physiological action in diminishing the feeling of fatigue and in dulling pain. Observing these facts, the white man developed cocaine for use as a local anaesthetic. The bark and leaves of the witch-hazel were also widely used for soothing irritations. Cascara sagrada and quinine have proved their merits as remedies, the latter being an aid of inestimable value in conquering the fever-ridden tropics.

The Indian discovered and developed a number of excellent dyes. Chief among these was that made from the cochineal, an insect from southern Mexico, which was domesticated and grown on the nopal or prickly pear cactus. Another important dye, also the result of domestication, was anil or American indigo. In Central America the Indian used the secretion of the murex shell fish as a purple dye.

The white man has also learned from the Indian lore of the out-of-doors. Recreations such as canoeing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, and la crosse, and the less strenuous diversion of reclining in hammocks are part of this heritage. So also are the ideas and devices relating to hunting and fishing, namely catching fish by torchlight and weirs, calling moose, and the technique of trailing and capturing the larger game and wild animals. The tipi gave Major Henry Hopkins Sibley the idea for his invention of the Sibley army tent. Perhaps the sleeping bag is derived from the warm moss bag of the Athapascan. The moccasin and the Panama hat are articles of clothing which have been adopted.

Such, in summary, are the contributions of the American Indian to civilization. Applying a well-known inscription— Si monumentum requiris, circumspice— to the Indian, we may close by saying "If you seek his monument, look around."

FOOTNOTES

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- The manes of states of Indian origin are: Alabama, Alaska, 10/ Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakotá, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The names. of Canadian provinces of Indian origin are: Keewatin, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Ungava, and Yukon. The names of American republics of Indian origin are: Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Chile, Guiana, Uruguay, and Paraguay. For a bibliography on geographic names in the United States, see H. L. . Mencken, The American Language, 443-446 (New York, 1921). The lists of words given in footnotes 10 and 11 are based largely on this work, p. 51-53, 100, and 344; Alexander F. Chamberlain, "Algonkian Words in American English," in the Journal of American (October-December, 1902), and Folk-Lore, 15:240-267 his "The Contributions of the American Indian to Civilization," in the American Antiquarian Society, Proceedings, 15:93-99 (October, 1903); and William R. Gerard, "Virginia's Indian Contributions to English," in the American Anthropologist, 9:87-112 (January-March, 1907). See also J. P. Harrington, "Old Indian Geographical Names around Santa Fe," in the American Anthropologist, 22:341-359 (October, 1920); T. T. Waterman, "Geographical Names Used by the Indians of the Pacific Coast," in the Geographical Review, 12: 175-194 (April, 1922).
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